

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit, the connector comprising a one-piece unitary ~~thermoplastic~~ body having a bore therethrough, the body including a cylindrical sleeve, a ferrule skirt coaxial with the sleeve, the ferrule skirt having an a cylindrical inner wall, the connector having an annular cylindrical channel defined by the sleeve and the inner wall, a thread formed on the inner wall, the thread extending radially into the channel, the sleeve being dimensioned such that it may be received within an end of a length of selected ~~non-metallic~~ conduit and the ~~non-metallic~~ conduit may be slipped over the sleeve and into the channel, the channel having a blind end and the sleeve including an outward flare adjacent the blind end, the flare extending toward the cylindrical inner wall, at least a portion of the flare being axially registered with a portion of the thread, whereby upon rotation of the connector relative to the conduit, the thread engages an outer surface of the conduit and draws the conduit into the channel and the end of the conduit is tightly compressed against the portion of the thread and sealed in the channel between the flare and the cylindrical inner wall.

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the flare extends to the cylindrical inner wall ~~the channel includes a blind end and the sleeve includes an outward flare adjacent the blind end, whereby the end of the conduit is tightly compressed and sealed in the channel due to engagement between the flare and the inner wall.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 3 1 wherein the body is formed of polyvinyl chloride.

5. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the thread comprises a buttress thread, whereby high resistance against tensile force separation is attained.

6. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the body further includes a nipple, the bore extending through the nipple, whereby the connector may be fastened to an electrical junction box with a conventional nut inserted over one end of the nipple.

7. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 6 wherein the body includes a transverse flange, the flange being positioned at the other end of the nipple, the flange being dimensioned to engage an exterior surface of an electrical junction box when the nipple is inserted through an opening in the electrical junction box.

8. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 7 wherein the sleeve and the nipple are coaxial.

9. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 7 wherein the nipple extends along an axis perpendicular to and intersecting the axis of the sleeve, whereby an elbow connector is provided.

10. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 7 wherein the ferrule skirt extends from the transverse flange.

11. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the ferrule skirt includes a plurality of planar faces whereby the body may be gripped by a suitable tool.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a length of flexible non-metallic electrical conduit to an electrical junction box having an access aperture, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a one piece molded thermoplastic non-metallic connector having a smooth walled cylindrical sleeve at one end, a threaded nipple at the other end and a bore extending from end to end,
- b) surrounding at least a portion of the smooth walled sleeve with a concentric cylindrical wall to provide an annular cylindrical channel,
- c) providing a thread projecting radially inwardly from the cylindrical wall and into the channel,
- d) dimensioning the smooth walled sleeve and the cylindrical wall such that an end of a length of flexible non-metallic electrical conduit can be received within the channel,
- e) inserting the smooth walled sleeve into an end of the length of conduit,

- f) ~~sliding inserting the conduit over the smooth walled sleeve and~~ into the channel,
- g) seating the conduit within the channel by engaging a surface of the conduit with the thread and providing relative rotation between the connector and the conduit,
- h) ~~sealing the conduit by forcing an end portion of the conduit against the cylindrical wall,~~
- i) h) inserting the nipple through the access aperture of the electrical junction box, and
- j) i) fastening the connector to the electrical junction box by threading a nut over the nipple and tightening the nut until the flange abuts an outer surface of the electrical junction box.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a length of flexible non-metallic electrical conduit to an electrical junction box in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compressive force is applied ~~end portion of the conduit is forced against the cylindrical wall~~ by providing a ~~narrowing constriction within the channel the smooth walled sleeve with an outward flare~~ adjacent an interior end of the channel.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a length of flexible non-metallic electrical conduit to an electrical junction box in accordance with claim 14 wherein the ~~constriction is provided by forming an outward flare overlies a portion of the thread on the surface of the sleeve.~~

16. (Original) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic flexible electrical conduit, the connector comprising a one-piece thermoplastic body, the body having a cylindrical sleeve and a ferrule skirt overlying at least a portion of the sleeve, the ferrule skirt including a cylindrical inner wall, the inner wall of the ferrule skirt and the sleeve defining a channel dimensioned to accommodate an end portion of a length of flexible non-metallic electrical conduit, a buttress thread projecting radially inwardly from the inner wall of the ferrule skirt into the channel and extending axially along the channel, the buttress thread being dimensioned to engage the outer surface of the end portion of the selected length of conduit, whereby rotation of the coupling relative to the conduit retentively seals the end portion of the selected length of conduit in the channel.

17. (Original) A liquid tight connector is constructed in accordance with claim 16 wherein the body includes a nipple, the nipple being configured to join the coupling to an electrical junction box, the connector further including a bore extending through the nipple and the connector.

18. (Original) A liquid tight connector as constructed in accordance with claim 17 wherein the nipple includes a first end coinciding with an end of the body and a second end intermediate the ends of the body, the body including a transverse flange at the second end of the nipple.

19. (Original) A liquid tight connector as constructed in accordance with claim 18 wherein the ferrule skirt extends from the flange.

20. (Original) A liquid tight connector as constructed in accordance with claim 16 wherein the buttress thread projects radially inwardly from the inner wall of the ferrule skirt a distance less than 1.0 mm.

21. (New) A liquid tight connector as constructed in accordance with claim 16 wherein the cylindrical sleeve is smooth walled.

22. (New) A liquid tight connector for non-metallic electrical conduit as constructed in accordance with claim 5 wherein the buttress thread projects radially inwardly from the inner wall of the ferrule skirt a distance less than 1.0 mm.